



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 9, 2003**

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
PATRICK SCHNEIDER  
Telephone: (602) 514-7547  
Pager: (602) 356-0207

# **SAN CARLOS MEN CHARGED WITH MURDER**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on January 21, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a one count indictment against Wendell NASH (DOB 12/6/72) and Terry ACTON (DOB 2/10/64), both from the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, near Globe, Arizona charging them with first degree murder. The indictment alleges that the NASH and ACTON murdered Cynthia Scroggins-Irving on a remote part of the reservation near San Carlos Lake. A criminal complaint had been filed against the two in December 2002, alleging that Nash blamed the victim for the murder of one of Nash's friends. The defendants, the victim and several others had been drinking at the lake when Scroggins-Irving was attacked.

(MORE)

The defendants were arrested at the time the complaint was filed and were ordered held without bond on January 9, 2003, by U.S. Magistrate Judge David Duncan.

The federal indictment charges NASH and ACTON with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1111.

A conviction for first degree murder carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted Bureau of Indian Affairs with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation

The prosecution is being handled by Ann Birmingham Scheel, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-059-PHX  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-013

# # #